

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY JANUARY 11, 2022***

***Select Board Present: Betsy Coes, Jacquelyn Silvani & Michael Sununu  
Others Include: Newfields Health Officer & Residents***

***Non-Public 6:29***

At 6:30 pm, The Select Board, by motion of Select Board Member Sununu, seconded by Select Board Member Coes and in accordance with RSA91-A:3 (II) (b), to enter into a non-public session for purpose of personnel matter [RSA91-A3(II)(b)].

A motion to leave non-public session was made by Select Board Member Sununu and seconded by Select Board Member Coes. The motion was passed and at 6:41 a public session reconvened.

***Call to order at 6:45pm.***

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated 12/30/21:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 47,314.35
Checks Dated 12/30/21:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 9,998.33
Checks Dated 12/31/21:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 1,906.22
Checks Dated 12/31/21:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 4,106.00
Checks Dated 01/07/22:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 22,948.73
Checks Dated 01/10/22:	School Tax Manifest	\$374,122.00
Checks Dated 01/14/22:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 16,543.44
Checks Dated 01/14/22:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 9,853.76

The Board notified those attending that William Tebo, the oldest Town resident, will be presented the Boston Cane in February.

The Board acknowledged correspondence from Bill Johnson recognizing the Police Department for their support provided during the annual Turkey Trot.

The Board received two bids for the Town Audit. One was from the current auditor, Melanson and the other was Plodzick & Sanderson. The Board chose to take the bids home to review and will decide at the next Board meeting.

The Board will review the Annual Pole Licensing and will sign at the next meeting.

Michael informed those attending the meeting that the Town is currently waiting to see if Mr. Hazell's attorney will respond to the court's decision.

Michael asked the Board members if any changes were necessary before the formal Budget Hearing. None were needed.

The Health Officer, Bobby Kelly, advised the board that the air purification system for the Town Hall will be coming in shortly. He added that all the covid-19 test kits, except for those reserved for MLK day, have been allocated to residents. He also requested an additional \$5,346.00 from the ARPA funds to purchase more kits given the high demand and lack of supply in stores. Michael asked Bobby to encourage residents to utilize free test kits issued by the State. If anyone has any questions, they may reach the Bobby at [newfieldshealthofficer@gmail.com](mailto:newfieldshealthofficer@gmail.com).

Jacqui motioned, seconded by Betsy, to approve the purchase of 270 additional kits in the amount of \$5,346.00. Michael opposed. The motion carried.

The Board deferred the review of 12/21/21 Select Board minutes until the next meeting.

Jacqui motioned to enact a mask mandate for all Town meetings effective immediately until March 8, 2022.

Michael specified that this would change the way the Town deals with RSA 91A – open access to meetings. There are no exceptions to RSA 91A; except for non-public. There are no rules governing public access to these meetings. In his opinion, if the Board is going to enact this mandate, they need to follow the Town process to do it. This would require the Board read the ordinance during three meetings to allow input from the residents. Michael believes this may restrict resident's access to public hearings.

After several minutes of discussion, with some residents voicing their opinions against a mandate, the Board agreed to allow this meeting to be the first reading of the ordinance despite not having an ordinance available. The second reading will take place on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 with the third on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Michael asked Jacqui to draft the ordinance language within 24 hours so that it may be circulated to the Town.

At 7:36 pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien